

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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THE CROSS FROM THE INSIDE OUT



I shared a version of these thoughts at the communion table this past Sunday and received a positive response, so I thought I should share them here.

One of my favorite anecdotes is a curious habit of a famous French writer, Guy de Maupassant. Like so many Parisians, Maupassant detested the Eiffel Tower. Many native Parisians who enjoy the classic stone architecture from the 1700s and 1800s that covers most of the Paris skyline find the modernist Eiffel Tower, with its massive, skinless steel skeleton, an out-of-place aberration. Maupassant

hated the tower so much that almost every day he went for lunch at a café at the base of the tower. He reasoned it was the only place he could look at his beloved Paris skyline without seeing the tower looming over it. Viewed from the outside in, the Eiffel Tower was an awful eyesore. Viewed from the inside out, the tower wasn't such a bad place.

There are many hymns we sing and trite phrases we use when it comes to the cross of Christ. We sing of looking at the old, rugged cross. We call the repentant to lay down their burdens at the foot of the cross. Our hearts are moved when we survey the wondrous cross.

However, in all of the New Testament, I find no precedent call for the faithful to come and look at the cross of Christ.

I think there is a very good reason that the writers of the New Testament didn't call upon people to come and look at the cross. First century people knew, all too well, what crosses looked like, and they were anything but wondrous. Roman crosses were more than symbolic; they were vivid, daily reminders of real human suffering and misery. Standing outside and looking in at the details of Christ's death can quickly lead to a feeling of confusion and futility.

So, it is significant to me that the only call in the New Testament I hear in relation to the cross, is that we should take up our cross and follow Jesus. We don't stand in the world and look at the cross of Christ — we place ourselves with Christ upon the cross and view the world from there. Our place in relation to the cross is not outside looking in, but inside looking out.

Please don't worry that I'm going to take old favorites such as *The Old Rugged Cross* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* out of the hymn rotation. But, I share this to

... the deeper search
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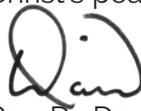
remind us all that as followers of Jesus, having a deep faith in the cross of Jesus is not an excuse to escape the call to self-sacrifice. A deep faith in the cross of Jesus contains within it the deeper search for how we can model our lives upon the sacrifice of Jesus. The great Disciples preacher Fred Craddock captures well what this means for most of us:

To give my life for Christ appears glorious," he said. "To pour myself out for others...to pay the ultimate price of martyrdom — I'll do it. I'm ready, Lord, to go out in a blaze of glory.

We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking a \$1,000 bill and laying it on the table—'Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all.' But the reality for most of us is that he sends us to the bank and has us cash in the \$1,000 for quarters. We go through life putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there. Listen to the neighbor kid's troubles instead of saying, 'Get lost.' Go to a committee meeting. Give a cup of water to a shaky old man in a nursing home.

Usually giving our life to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of love, 25 cents at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it's harder to live the Christian life little by little over the long haul.

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Wednesdays - in the church

- Women's Chorus at 6 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 7:00 p.m.

All interested singers invited!



Disciples Women Summer Social Gathering



Join us for this time of fellowship with Disciples Women around the Great River Region, for a time to visit and play some games on **Saturday, July 24, 2021, from 10 am 'til noon.** To register, please [click here](#).

Our theme is *Hope Springs Eternal*, and scripture focus is Ephesians 1:17a, 18a - *I pray that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance...*

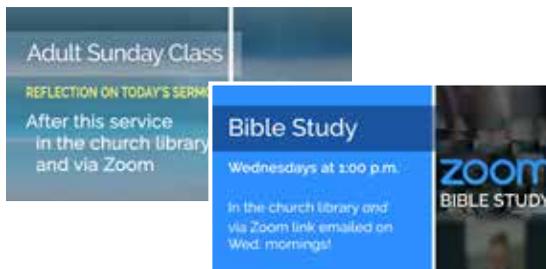
Disciples Virtual Gathering

Save the Date! There will be a virtual gathering of Disciples across the life of the church on **Saturday, August 7, 2021**, an opportunity for Disciples to connect, learn, worship, and imagine new ways of gathering as church. The day's focus will be on the covenant we share as Disciples and the promise of Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God. If you would like to be notified when more information is ready, [click here](#).



Weekly Study Opportunities

Adult studies are offered two times, weekly: **Sundays**, immediately following the service (about 11:15 a.m.); and, on **Wednesdays**, at 1:15 p.m., in the church library and via ZOOM. The links to the Zoom connection go out on Wednesday mornings and Saturday mornings (for the Sunday class). Give one or both a try!



Storm Season is Off to a Busy Start

Having a *written* hurricane plan will help you avoid mistakes during an emergency. Have a list of essential contacts, including people outside the potential impact area. Review and practice your plan with your family and friends. We last focused on your communication plan. Below, we go over necessities for an emergency kit.

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags, then put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or duffel bag. **Keep a copy of your communication plan in each Go Kit.**

Basic Recommendations:

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Masks (to help filter contaminated air and/or help prevent disease spread)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place or for immediate mitigation of damage)
- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Additional Emergency Supplies

- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank

account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container

- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Maintaining Your Kit

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.
- Consider dietary needs of those in your family, as well as any other medical needs including medical equipment, functioning devices, etc.

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and cars.

Home: Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.

Work: Be prepared to shelter at work for at least 24 hours. Your work kit should include food, water and other necessities like medicines, as well as **comfortable walking shoes, stored in a "grab and go" case.**

Car: In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

June 20, 2021

June 27, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Church Opening David Fennell
Sacraments Diane Sympson
Deacon/Greeter Ed Atkins
Liturgist Carmen Jones
Youth Reader Callie Cody
Children's Sermon Leatus Still
Elder Vicki Krupala
Video Tech Callie Cody
Sound Tech Chris Culp
Livestream Ted Baldwin
Church Closing Jeff Cody
Graphic Builder Yvonne Taylor

Church Opening George Cochran
Sacraments Diane Sympson
Deacon/Greeter Joann Taliaferro
Liturgist Sally Bremer
Youth Reader Leonardo Morgan
Children's Sermon Rev. David Chisham
Elder Judy Lester
Video Tech Anderson Krupala
Sound Tech Tony Fatta
Livestream Ted Baldwin
Church Closing Tony Fatta
Program Builder Church office

Lectionary Readings: June 16-29, 2021

Wednesday, June 16: Psalm 53; 1 Samuel 15:24-31; Luke 6:43-45

Thursday, June 17, 2021: Psalm 9:9-20; 1 Samuel 16:14-23; Acts 20:1-16

Friday, June 18, 2021: Psalm 9:9-20; 1 Samuel 17:55-18:5; Acts 21:1-16

Saturday, June 19, 2021: Psalm 9:9-20; 1 Samuel 18:1-4; Luke 21:25-28

Sunday, June 20, 2021: Proper 7 (12) — 1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13;
Mark 4:35-41

Monday, June 21, 2021: Psalm 119:113-128; 1 Samuel 18:6-30; Acts 27:13-38

Tuesday, June 22, 2021: Psalm 119:113-128; 1 Samuel 19:1-7; Acts 27:39-44

Wednesday, June 23, 2021: Psalm 119:113-128; 1 Samuel 19:8-17; Mark 6:45-52

Thursday, June 24, 2021: Psalm 130; 1 Samuel 19:18-24; 2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Friday, June 25, 2021: Psalm 130; 1 Samuel 20:1-25; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Saturday, June 26, 2021: Psalm 130; 1 Samuel 20:27-42; Luke 4:31-37

Sunday, June 27, 2021: Proper 8 (13)

Monday, June 28, 2021: Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50; 1 Samuel 23:14-18; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Tuesday, June 29, 2021: Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50; 1 Samuel 31:1-13; 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Prayer List

The following people represent some of the current concerns at First Christian Church. If you would like to have a name added, update a current prayer request, or remove someone from the prayer list, please fill out the prayer request section of our [online check-in page](#), or contact us at churchoffice@fccbrla.org, or 225-926-4175. Names generally rotate off after 30/60/90 days without an update, depending on the nature of the original request.

Members in our prayers:

JD Albin, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Laurel Dennis, Martha Denova, Paul Foster, Rich Griswold, Lee Gullett, Ruth Horn, Jane Johnson, Marie Ladner, Tyler Lax, Helen Mitchener, Kristin Morgan, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Joann Taliaferro, Mary Jon Turner, Wally and Bev Weselak, Toni Wilson

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Greg Anderson, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Brittany Stevenson Boothe, Angela Marie Avansi Casarotti, Rhett Castleberry, Patricia Cornelius, Johnny Durham, the family of Dorothy Ebi, Dean Fife, Family, friends, and unit comrades of Sgt. Casey Hart, Judy Heacock, Lane Holloman, Donita Hutchinson, Jeff Judice, friends of Matt Kelley, Lee Lambert, the family of Melody Larsen, Amber Lessard, Larry LeTeff, Tammy Norton, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, the family of Sue Pounds, Sylvia Rabalais, Maxine Rak, Rebekah Rimes, Jimmy Rudd, Alyssa Russell, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Nick Tullier, Amy Zietlow

Members in Active Military Service:

PVT Gage Goodspeed

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175

Email: churchoffice@fccbrla.org

Rev. David Chisham: 703-220-6011

Email: david@fccbrla.org

Website: fccbrla.org

YouTube Video Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FCCBRLA/featured>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/fccbrla> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fccbrla>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/fccbrla>



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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SERVICE AT 10:00 AM EACH SUNDAY - IN PERSON and ONLINE

Coffee Fellowship - Pondering the return of a Sunday favorite

At the time of the 2021 volunteer sign-up, we could barely visualize when Coffee Fellowship might return to our Sunday mornings — yet, here we are! Conversations have begun about re-establishing our Sunday morning time of casual conversation as a community, over coffee and modest breakfast items, hosted between 9:30 a.m. and the start of the ten o'clock service, in the Fellowship Hall.

Would you be willing to be part of a rotating team of Coffee Fellowship hosts? Warming up some biscuits and starting a couple of pots of coffee (all provided by the church), along with clean up, are the Sunday duties. Other breakfast items are welcome, at the host team's discretion and expense.

Please contact the church office by email or phone to express your interest and willingness to serve on a Coffee Fellowship team, and we'll report back with responses, soon. Please reach out, too, if you have other suggestions or comments!

[Email churchoffice@fccbrla.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org)

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Phone 225-926-4175